

House of Detention to shut this summer



Holy procession

Louis Ponsiglione (foreground) of the St. Rosalia Society, joined other Catholic Italian-Americans in a Good Friday procession that began at Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen Church, at Summit and Hicks streets in Carroll Gardens. The parish is considered Brooklyn's oldest Italian Catholic community.

Free Sunday parking returns to Bklyn H'ts

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Paper

Free Sunday parking will soon be restored to select streets in Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights.

"Sometimes democracy does work, sometimes government does work," said Downtown-Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky. "Mistakes get corrected."

In an April 11 letter to Yassky, who requested a review of the streets in his district, Lori Ardito, acting borough commissioner of the city Department of Transportation,

wrote that a re-evaluation had determined that six streets should be converted back to six-day metered parking by mid-May.

Last November, the Transportation Department announced that it would activate 7,282 parking meters in Brooklyn on Sundays as part of a budget modification to boost revenues for the city that also included an 18.5-percent property tax hike. In this fiscal year, the meters are estimated to collect an extra \$1 million while in the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, it is anticipated the Sunday meters will raise an additional \$3.5 million.

Signage replacements began in December and the entire project went into effect in late January.

Yassky responded to the adjustment with a Jan. 9 letter to city Transportation Commissioner Iris Weinshall, who is married to Yassky's former boss, Sen. Charles Schumer, requesting that Sunday metered parking be lifted from certain streets.

Yassky wrote, "Street parking is a premium in neighborhoods such as Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights. Finding a legal parking space in these neighborhoods is a sticking point."

See **PARKING** on page 2

Inmates going to Rikers; city will continue to control the site

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Paper

You could call it a jailbreak, only instead if the inmates fleeing it will be personnel.

The Brooklyn House of Detention will be closed this summer as part of the city's cost-cutting initiatives. The empty facility will remain part of the city Department of Correction's inventory, the agency said this week, but neighbors are already envisioning the jail as Atlantic Avenue's newest mixed-use retail and residential addition to Downtown Brooklyn.

"We don't want the bottom [of the building] to be unfriendly and the prison is," said Sandy Balboa, president of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association. Balboa added that the neighborhood had optimistically envisioned condominiums, with ground-floor retail for the jail after the New York Sun reported the forthcoming closure this weekend.

The stretch of Atlantic Avenue between Boerum Place and Smith Street, where the jail is located, has long been referred to by Atlantic Avenue activists as "the gap" for its sparse and forbidding atmosphere, which works as a barrier between the surrounding neighborhoods of Downtown Brooklyn, Boerum Hill and Cobble Hill.

The Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation was formed to devise a master plan to maximize the avenue's aesthetic appeal and retail capacities. A rough draft of the plan is expected this June, but "the gap" with the prison on one side and bail businesses on the other, remains a sticking point.

Candace Damon, president of the LDC said, "It remains to be seen if this is actually going to happen but if it does it's an extraordinary opportunity for the avenue."

"We've got to have jails," said Downtown-Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky. "[But] I think if we don't need it, plainly then a big jail there is an impediment to having Atlantic Avenue develop the way it should."

Yassky said he would consult with real estate developers on the potential reuse of the building before suggesting alternatives. However, with the city pouring \$100

million over the next seven to 10 years into a massive plan to develop Downtown Brooklyn's commercial and residential potential, the land would seem like an attractive parcel.

If the city is going to spend \$100 million and a whole lot of energy on Downtown Brooklyn, that ought to inform that site," Yassky said.

Thomas Antenen, a spokesman for the Correction Department, said the city will seek to cut \$5.3 million from the agency in the next fiscal year, which starts July 1, and the savings would be found by closing the Brooklyn House of Detention around that time.

The cuts call for layoffs of the 315 most recently hired uniformed correctional officers citywide, Antenen said. Most of the House of Detention's 163 guards will be re-assigned to other facilities. The jail's approximate population of 600 inmates would be sent to Rikers Island.

Rikers Island is currently using See **JAIL** on page 2



The Brooklyn House of Detention, on Atlantic Avenue between Boerum Place and Smith Street, is set to close this summer.

Mayor Mike rattles Prospect zoo's cages



Red panda takes a tree break at the Prospect Park Zoo Tuesday.

Director says park's animal kingdom can't just be moved

The Brooklyn Paper

Since Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced he will cut city funding of the Prospect Park Zoo, forcing its closure to balance the budget, the director of the zoo, Dr. Don Moore, has heard the cries of public support.

He's also gotten a few offers — albeit infeasible ones — to take in his soon-to-be castoff species.

"Have we gotten calls? Sure," Moore said. "From a pet store that wants to display a growup female baboon."

There are a few problems with that possibility, Moore said, the most notable being that to host a baboon you need a license from the

See **ZOO** on page 6



A few coins in the fountain

Borough President Marty Markowitz (far left) and Martin Maher and Charlie Gill from Parks Department (at right) toss good-luck coins with children from the Brownlee Recreation Center April 16 to celebrate re-starting the fountain in Borough Hall plaza. Fountain was turned off all last season because of drought.

Gilda's Club coming to Slope

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Paper

Entering the four-story brick headquarters of Gilda's Club New York City in SoHo, with its hardwood floors, oak cabinets and cozy but mismatched furniture, is not unlike walking into any number of city living rooms. The space looks lived in, down to the coffee stains on the carpets.

Because the aesthetic goal of Gilda's Club, which provides support services to people with

cancer and their families, is to be as homespun as possible, Park Slope is an easy fit for the organization, and the club is set to pair with the neighborhood.

In June, as Gilda's Club New York City celebrates its eighth anniversary, they will open a Brooklyn Clubhouse. It will be the first satellite center of the 16 Gilda's Clubs across the country.

On April 14, Harriet Mannheim, a certified social worker and program director of Gilda's Club New York City, came to introduce the plans to an enthusiastic audience at a joint meeting of the

Housing and Human Services committees of Community Board 6.

"I'm glad it's coming," said Thomas Miskel, chairman of CB6's Human Services Committee. "I can't believe we didn't have something like this before."

The organization will set up their Brooklyn Clubhouse within the top two floors of a four-story brownstone at 502 Eighth Ave., between Fifth and Sixth streets. The space is being leased to Gilda's Club by New York Methodist Hospital. See **GILDA** on page 2

Another close call for a Sunset Park firehouse

By Alexia Christodoulides
The Brooklyn Paper

Engine 278 in Sunset Park is not typical firehouse.

For one thing, they don't have a Dalmatian. They have a tabby cat named Tozzo (named after an allergic firefighter who sleeps on the purple leather couch in the back room. Before Tozzo arrived there was a pot-bellied pig named Dawg, who ruled the roost for about a year.

The self-appointed guardian of the firehouse is Lynnie, a 40-something woman who lives nearby (firefighters say she keeps track of who's on duty by watching the cars parked out front) who jealously shoos away curious women, telling them, "Leave them alone, they're busy, they don't want you."

But what really sets Engine 278 apart from

other firehouses is the fact that it has already risen from the dead once and hopes to do so again.

"Forty three days until closing," read a countdown notice on the whiteboard inside the firehouse two weeks ago.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg initially announced in November that he might close the firehouse and seven others in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan as fiscal belt tightening in the face of a recession-level budget deficit. On April 7, Bloomberg made it official. He gave the firehouses 45 days.

But Engine 278 has been through this before, albeit nearly 30 years ago.

The firehouse was closed from July 2 through July 16, 1975, the last time the city faced such ominous economic straits, when the current Engine 278 firefighters were kids.

That closure, too, was supposed to be permanent. The big fire engine was shifted to another firehouse, the firefighters who worked there in '75 were all dispersed (or "re-deployed," in the quasi-military lingo of firefighter culture) to other firehouses. The chief remained.

"They didn't tell anyone they'd done it that way, and people would look in and see someone, and feel safe. But the firehouse was closed," said Richie Verland, a 13-year veteran of Engine 278.

None of the 25 Engine 278 firefighters will be laid off this time, either. They will be re-deployed to other firehouses, though only one firefighter this week knew where he was being stationed. Since there are to be no layoffs, the city will save \$10.2 million in operating costs, but nothing on payroll.

Engine 278's union delegate, Firefighter

Mike Trigliano, sounded fairly upbeat when he said, "We're not resigned to the fact that we're closing. We're no more bitter than we were last week. The guys here will probably go to [Engine] 228 or [Engine] 241," both located in Sunset Park. "A couple of guys who live on Staten Island will probably go to Staten Island houses," he added.

Although it's one of five firehouses (Engine Companies 201, 228, 241 and Ladder 114 are the others) in the neighborhood, this firehouse serves eastern Sunset Park, Brooklyn's densely populated Chantown along Eighth Avenue, and a large chunk of Borough Park abutting Maimonides Medical Center. Engine 278 also responds to medical emergencies.

Retired Fire Chief Ed Henry came by the other day for lunch and moral support. "If

See **ENGINE 278** on page 5



Firefighters from Engine Company 278 with their truck.

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GILDA...

Continued from page 1

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"They offer such a unique service that everybody around the hospital I've spoken to is really excited about being able to have that service in Brooklyn," said New York Methodist spokeswoman Lynn Hill.

In early 2001, Hill attended a conference on cancer at New York Methodist where Gilda's Club made a presentation about its program. Hill asked if there was a possibility of exporting some of those services to Brooklyn, but the nature of the organization is to keep their services within their own "clubhouse" setting.

Shortly after, Hill approached the hospital's administrative board with the idea of donating space, and they welcomed the proposal.

Gilda's Club was founded in 1995, and named for comedian Gilda Radner, who, after she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, had sought to develop more support centers for cancer patients and their families, as well as workshops and social events. Programming for teenagers and a recreational center within the building for small children, called "Noogieland," will also be available.

Of the club's current membership of 3,200 citywide, Mannheim estimates 15 percent are from Brooklyn.

Among the free services offered by Gilda's Club, which will also be offered in Park Slope, are support and networking groups led by licensed mental health workers for cancer patients and their families, as well as workshops and social events. Programming for teenagers and a recreational center within the building for small children, called "Noogieland," will also be available.

"Everybody can be affected at some level [by cancer]," said Ingrid Whitaker, a certified social worker and program manager at Gilda's Club New York City. "That's why we offer support to everyone involved."

Members begin their support at Gilda's Club by making a 16-week commitment and crafting a customized membership plan. Brooklyn's clubhouse will initially be open for three days a week and then accommodate its schedule to the members' requests, Mannheim said.

Noogieland is named for the noogies exchanged between Radner and "Saturday Night Live" co-star Bill Murray, during one their "Nerds" sketches, and Radner's body of work is imprinted deeply into the organization. The club's figurehead is Radner's SNL character, Roseanne Roseannadanna, and one of the meeting rooms is called the "It's always something" room, for the catchphrase of the fictional TV news woman. It was also the title of Radner's 1989 autobiography.

"It's always something" is one of about a dozen meeting rooms for support groups as well as casual gatherings of members.

Moments after introducing the program plan to members of CCB, those in attendance began to offer their assistance, some discussing friends who have succumbed to the illness.

For now, Mannheim said, Gilda's Club is struggling to raise money in a weakened economy. In addition, the Park Slope clubhouse is registered with Target, Macy's and Crate & Barrel so that members of the public can buy furnishings for the non-profit.

PARKING...

Continued from page 1

constant struggle for residents who cannot afford to garage their cars."

In particular, he asked the DOT to look at "residential streets, bordering on commercial areas," for immunity.

"As the [Bloomberg] administration considers making Downtown Brooklyn a prime destination in New York City, we should not forget about the residents who already live there," Yasky added.

Jane McGroarty, chairwoman of the Brooklyn Heights Association's traffic and transportation

Free Parking

The following Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn streets will return to meter-free parking on Sundays in May:

• South side of Clark Street between Cadman Plaza West and Monroe Place.

• West side of Clinton Street between Cadman Plaza West and Pierpont Street.

• Both sides of Remsen Street between Clinton and Henry streets.

• South side of Joralemon Street between Clinton and Henry streets.

• North side of Livingston Street between Court and Clinton streets.

• North side of Schermerhorn Street between Court and Clinton streets.

committee, said that until January's new rule was imposed, her block of Joralemon Street had only had metered parking from Monday through Friday.

"I can only say I'm delighted and I can only imagine other people in the neighborhood are also delighted," she said. "Montague Street is a different story... but the other areas, there's not a lot of commercial activity that goes on on Saturday and Sunday."

While it was thought that metered parking might create a higher turnover for shops, many of the streets in Brooklyn Heights were primarily residential with very few shoppers on weekends.

McGroarty said she saw very few cars actually using the newly metered parking spots and questioned the wisdom of employing meter maids to enforce empty spaces. She also assumed the parkers being affected most by the hourly parking were parishioners at nearby churches.

On Jan. 24, Weinshall responded to Yasky's letter, saying her agency would undertake a six-week review, which would include that the six streets should not have Sunday meter parking.

JAIL...

Continued from page 1

only eight of its 10 jails and it can receive the Brooklyn facilities' prisoners without stressing capacity, Antenen added.

Inmates who were once received into the Correction Department's custody at the House of Detention will now be issued their identification numbers, and have their fingerprints and mug shots taken at Rikers Island.

The House of Detention has a capacity of 800 inmates but with an ongoing building rehabilitation project, underway since the late 1990s, the capacity has been reduced to about 663 inmates, all from Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Antenen said construction would proceed on the jail despite its being operationally shut down, and he added, "We expect the construction to be speeded up because the building will be empty and it will be easier to work on."

He said a decreasing population of inmates citywide — to about 14,400 from over 22,000 during the '90s — has created a surplus of space in jails and resulted in the closure of the Bronx and Queens houses of detention.

Both the Queens and Bronx facilities have remained in the possession of the Correction Department, although the Bronx facility, renamed the River Avenue Annex, was briefly used for overflow from the Department of Homeless Service's Emergency Assistance Unit, before advocates for the homeless forced the city to stop using it for that purpose.

Over the years, several bail bondsmen have sprung up across the street from the jail. Most said this week that the closure would not hurt their businesses as much as it would inconvenience their customers.

Nelson Soto, an employee of Apple Bail Bonds, said families of inmates would be the most affected because they'd have to take a longer trip to pay visits or give money to the commissary for their incarcerated loved ones.

Oscar Chiu, owner of Bad Apple Bail Bonds, said it would take longer for agents to obtain court records from the 24-hour bail window at city facilities, because they would have to make trips to Rikers Island instead of across the street, which could mean a longer stay in jail for suspects.

"One day for processing, one day to go to court and then it will take two days to get them out," Chiu said. "People can lose their jobs [in that time]."

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This Old DUMBO House

Home guru Bob Vila rehabs an old Water St. factory for Walentas

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

There are no half-naked babes, no beer-guzzling boozers or even a private couch where participants can reveal their secret fantasies to a cameraman and 3 million viewers.

Despite all that, Bob Vila's home improvement show has persisted as perhaps the longest-running reality show in television history.

And now the home improve-

ment guru, who made his name fixing up Victorian-style homes and Cape Cod cottages, has come to the gritty (OK, at least cobblestoned) streets of DUMBO to take on the revamping of a three-story, 19th-century pepper factory.

This project marks Vila's first foray into New York City.

After spending a long time looking for a property to purchase and restore, Vila quickly learned that buying real estate in New York City wasn't as easy as his more usual

tasks of installing septic tanks, ripping out floorboard and connecting wireless electrical systems.

An apartment was out of the question (just imagine the complaints from the co-op board). And the price of brownstones, even for a celebrity like Vila, was well, just too darn expensive.

So when a friend introduced Vila to David Walentas—the King of DUMBO, who owns a sizeable chunk of the neighborhood's property—it seemed a match made in real estate heaven.

Or at least a marriage of convenience, as Walentas put it. And the progeny of this partnership—a three-apartment dwelling of high design on Water Street near Main Street.

Here's the deal. Walentas loved Vila the broken-down building across the street from the ultra-hot Jacques Torres Chocolate Factory and 66 Water Street bar just long enough for him to restore it back to new. Then the property goes back to Walentas. Vila gets to shoot his TV series in New York, and Walentas gets an apartment building and a load of publicity for the burgeoning neighborhood cup empire he's been building for the past decade.

It's not the typical project for Vila, who got his start in 1978, when the restoration of a Victorian Italianate house landed him in the pages of the Boston Globe. That article led to a PBS series called "This Old House," which Vila hosted for 10 years. Since 1989, Vila has produced his own series, "Bob Vila's Home Again" and has written almost a dozen books. (Not to mention inspiring and making guest appearances on Tim Allen's long-running '90s hit sitcom "Home Improvement.")

Even in a neighborhood like DUMBO that prides itself on its cool, a seasoned celeb like Vila can still turn a few heads.

On a sunny Wednesday morning earlier this month, Vila and his entourage (which included a publicist, a film crew, his son Chris, and a slew of workmen provided by Walentas) were standing outside waiting to shoot their second segment.

"Hey, there's that guy," shouted a man driving by in a 1953 Cadillac Imperial convertible. When the driver jumped out of the car, Vila was more than happy to dump an inquisitive journalist to talk shop with a fan. That left the journalist with Vila's son, Chris, 26, who has been

brought on as a producer for the DUMBO series. Walentas also tossed this project over to his son, Jed, 28, to supervise.

Equipped with a strap-on cell phone, Chris led a tour through the dilapidated building, which looked as if it had been looted, burned and left to rot for centuries with only a few left over cogs, gears and leather belts as a reminder of its former factory use.

But in less than six months, according to Chris, the building will be like new.

Upstairs, on the third floor, Vila stood by in a button-down shirt, as a demolition crew for Walentas' Two Trees Management broke a sweat tearing up the floorboards and leaving gaping holes.

In future segments, Vila will look on as the crew installs a new floor and frames up the walls, which are now exposed brick.

Three separate interior designers



Home repair icon Bob Vila (above right) speaks with demolition crew foreman Keith Elmore about the progress of 85 Water Street (at left).

are being brought in to design each of the three two-bedroom apartments and Beyer Blinder Belle, the Massachusetts-based architects responsible for the restoration of Grand Central Terminal, will come into restore the exterior of the landmark-designated building.

While the first segment will serve as an introduction for viewers to the new surroundings ("Most of

the viewers have no idea what DUMBO is," Vila said) later shows will take them around to other spots in Brooklyn.

The show airs Sundays at 5 am on channel 2. The DUMBO series will air in the fall.

In what he calls "Tiller," Vila will take his film crew to a few of the borough's cultural and historical landmarks, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

And as with any good marriage, Vila will also spotlight Walentas'

wares, including the newly renovated Sweeney Manufacturing building condos and a historic carousel, which he wants to install in Empire-Fulton Ferry Park.

Once the restoration is complete the apartments will neither be rented nor sold, but rather held onto by the Walentas family to be let out to friends, guests and esteemed VIPs.

Does Jed want to get his hands on one? No, he says, he's happy on the Lower East Side. And Chris? He's happily ensconced on the Upper West Side.

Farmer's mart for Ft. Greene

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Spas and bars have been popping up like spring flowers in Fort Greene, but the newest addition might bring the biggest smiles to residents who live in a neighborhood that boasts a bounty of restaurants but a dearth of shops selling fresh vegetables.

Following in the footsteps of nearby Grand Army Plaza and Borough Hall, Fort Greene Park will soon be home to a farmer's market, Jeanne Luffy, president of the BAM Local Development Corporation, announced at this month's Community Board 2 public meeting.

Every Saturday morning starting in July about seven farmers, hailing from Long Island and Uptown New York, will line up along the eastern edge of Fort Greene Park to hawk their fresh greens, flowers and cheeses.

Plans for a market have long been in the works, according to Howard Pitsch, a 20-year resident, who is chairman of the Fort Greene Association.

While the neighborhood houses a Pathmark and a clutch of bodegas, "you don't go there for fresh vegetables," said Pitsch who hopes the market will cater to residents of the nearby housing projects as well as the neighborhood's more affluent set who have been snatching up the area's well-preserved million-dollar brownstones.

"I had no idea there was going to

be a farmer's market," said Amy Lundeen, a Fort Greene resident and editor for a national food magazine in Manhattan. After spending years lugging her groceries home from Manhattan, Lundeen said she is looking forward to having affordable fruit and vegetables in her neighborhood.

The need for farmer's markets is especially acute in Fort Greene and its surrounding neighborhoods. While areas like Brooklyn Heights boast one grocery store per 7,000 residents, nearby Bedford-Stuyvesant has only one per 63,000.

To meet that need, Clinton Hill Community Supported Agriculture, which also serves Fort Greene and Bedford-Stuyvesant, supplies a weekly stock of fruits and vegetables on a sliding scale from a farm update that members can pick up every Thursday evening at the corner of Gates Avenue and Downing Street from June to November.

"This market is something we've been striving towards," said Jennifer Gerend, executive director of the Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project, a group that worked to bring a health food store and juice bar to the area at Myrtle and Clinton avenues.

Because it will be equally accessible to residents on the Myrtle Avenue side and the DeKalb Avenue side of Fort Green Park, Sebile Turke, director of economic development at Pratt Area Community Council, hopes the farmer's market will bring people together and help foster a sense of community.

CB2: Give us Navy Yard voice

By Patrick Galloway
The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 2 wants its voice back — on the Brooklyn Navy Yard's board of directors, that is.

Among issues raised by CB2 member Edward Carter, longtime member of the Navy Yard board, at CB2's April 9 general meeting, was the community board's lack of a vote on the Navy Yard Development Corporation's board of directors.

Despite his membership on the Navy Yard board, Carter believes CB2 should have a separate voting board member, specifically to represent the interests of the community board. He said it was too difficult to represent both the interests of the Navy Yard board and the community board at the same time.

While CB2 Chairwoman Shirley McRae has been a regular presence at Navy Yard board meetings, she added, "While CB2 is given notification of the board of directors meeting, we do not have a voting presence on that board."

"If I don't take copious notes we don't get the information and that's not the way it's supposed to happen," McRae added.

In the past, CB2 had an appointed member on the board, former CB2 Chairman Bob Evans. But he served at the discretion of then-Councilwoman Mary Pinkett, Borough President Marty Markowitz, Councilmen David Yassky, James Davis and Al Vann, all hold appointments to the board, although none have placed a community board member in that role.

The board is chaired by Alan Fishman, CEO of Independence Community Bank, and is made up of business leaders appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and local elected officials.

Carter was disturbed by a recent restructuring of the development corporation, which, he said, did not pass the board of director's approval.

tightening.

Carter expressed his "annoyance" that the restructuring was not cleared with the Navy Yard's board of directors.

"I have no problem with that, but he should have brought it to the board," Carter said of Brooklyn Navy Yard President Eric Deutsch.

"Staff responsibilities are for management to handle and the board has control through its approval of the budget," Deutsch said. "To the extent these changes had any effect on the budget they were addressed and approved."

There was a total reduction in personnel from 160 to 142 full-time and part-time staff members, Deutsch said. Of the 18 positions lost, 10 were closed through attrition and eight through layoffs.

"Knowing that we had to do more with less here we went through a company-wide reorganization in which we attempted to create operating efficiencies," Deutsch said.

Of the currently remaining employees, 88 are unionized security and maintenance employees and 54 are administrative staff.



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FIRE SALE

What will city do with its newly closed firehouses?

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

During the city's last major fiscal crisis, in the mid-1970s, Engine Company 278 in Sunset Park was shuttered for several weeks and Engine 203 in Carroll Gardens was closed for good, eventually converted to a townhouse.

Now, with Engine Company 204, on Degraw Street, between Court and Smith streets, and Engine 278, on Seventh Avenue between 50th and 51st streets, scheduled to be closed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, some neighbors wonder what may come in their place.

"We haven't been informed of any of the city's plans for Engine 204's quarters," said Jerry Arner, chairman of Community Board 6. "However, if past history is any indicator — and the city has been disposing of property to raise funds — I would guess eventually they plan to auction these off."

Elected officials and community groups will hold a demonstration on Sunday, April 27, at 1 p.m., on the steps of Borough Hall, at Court and Remsen streets, to protest the closings.

Jordan Barowitz, a spokesman for the mayor, said it would be the Fire Department that would decide if it had any use for the property. A Fire Department spokesman said there were no plans yet for the buildings but that they would be maintained by the Department in the meantime.

The firehouses could close as early as May 23, a Fire Department spokesman said.

If the Fire Department decided it had no other use for the firehouses, they would be declared surplus and turned over to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS).

While Warner Johnston, a

spokesman for DCAS, said there is no set timeline for when a property becomes vacant and when it is turned over for auction, until such an action, the Fire Department would have to maintain its own buildings.

As announced in his executive budget proposal on April 15, Bloomberg is threatening to close another 40 firehouses around the city.

However, before the property is sold — or given to the city's Economic Development Corporation or Department of Housing Preservation and Development to lease — it must go through the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), requiring the approval of the local community board, the borough president, the Department of City Planning and the City Council. Given the many community protests and the voiced opposition by elected officials, and Community Board 6, that approval would seem unlikely.

When asked how they would vote if faced with an application to dispose of firehouses, local council members, who wield significant influence over the process, would not even address the question, as if it were a concession of defeat for the current fight to keep the firehouses open.

"The future of Engine Company 204's firehouse on Degraw Street is the home of the first responders protecting the families of Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens," said Councilman Bill DeBlasio. "Discussion of any other use is offensive to the families that depend on the men and women of 204."

DeBlasio is one of several members of the council seeking to raise private funds to help maintain the firehouses, despite the mayor's opposition to the idea.

To counter Bloomberg's

plan to shutter the firehouses in the face of yawning deficits, the council agreed last November to convene a blue-ribbon commission to investigate alternative means of saving money.

The seven-member panel was composed of three representatives from the Fire Department, two Bloomberg appointees and two appointees of City Council Speaker Giff Miller.

Throughout the process council members protested repeated indications from the Bloomberg administration that the houses would close no matter what. The commission's vote, announced earlier this month, ultimately ruled in favor of closing the firehouses. Since that announcement, there has been discussion of taking the city to court to block the closings.

On Friday, a group of angry mothers, led by Colleen Giunta, member of the First

278...



Mike Triglianos, Engine 278's union delegate.

Continued from page 1

you're a couple minutes slow to respond," he said, "someone could be dead."

Sunset Park resident Karen Desarno said she "heard it yesterday on the news" and spoke for several communities at once. "I work at Maimonides Hospital. And I'm not happy [that the firehouse will close]. If there's a cutback, we'll have an extra workload for a shorter staff. What are we going to do if there's a fire and there's no firehouse?"

The plan now is to drum up public support to appeal the mayor's decision. Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez dropped by Wednesday to lend support. And the firefighters have support from other council members, too.

"At first, all Councilperson Bill DeBlasio talked about was Engine 204 in Cobble Hill," which will also close in May, said Capt. John Henricksen. "I told him that even though we're outside his geographical district we respond [to calls] in his area, and now he supports us."

DeBlasio had a more pugnacious official statement on the firehouse's fate. "I have stood in front of Engine Company 278's firehouse with Councilmember Gonzalez, and I can tell you the community is united against the threats to close the firehouse — and together we will not stand for it."

There is no official word about the fate of the building itself, whether it would be sold or leased, or another fire company would move into it. Gonzalez mentioned the effect of the closing on her district, which comprises mainly immigrant and working class families. "It is my obligation to oppose the closure of the firehouse Engine 278, as it will increase dramatically the danger faced by homeowners and apartment dwellers in my district from the calamity of a fire."

Nobody knows whether the firehouse will be closed permanently, or if it will reopen again like it did in 1975. Bryan Horan, a 12-year veteran, said wistfully, "We've been together a long time. We're used to each other here."

But Horan seemed less worried about the prospect than were other firefighters. "Seniority gets its choice of where to be re-deployed," he said.

Maybe the firehouse, like its cat, has a few more lives left to live.

Place/Summit Street Tri-Block Association, personally delivered to the Fire Department a request to see the alternatives considered by the blue-ribbon panel pursuant to state Freedom of Information Law, modeled after the federal Freedom of Information Act of 1974.

Giunta said that despite questions posed to elected officials and the Fire Department, she never heard a response about exactly what alternative measures were explored. She said she even doubts any were truly considered.

None of them were ever published," she said. "We've never seen anything and we've asked a lot of questions."

The other companies on the chopping block are Engine 212 in Greenpoint; Engine 209 in Bedford-Stuyvesant; Squad 252 in Bushwick; Engine 201 in Long Island City and Engine 293 in Woodhaven, Queens; and Engine 36 in East Harlem.



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Easter weekend

The Communion and Liberation choir (below) sings on the Brooklyn Bridge during the Way of the Cross procession from Brooklyn to Manhattan on Good Friday. (Above and right) Youngsters race for the eggs at an Easter egg hunt in Red Hook's Coffey Park.



ZOO...

Continued from page 1

U.S. Department of Agriculture. There are other immediate concerns, however, regarding the trauma of travel and the social habits of certain animals.

"We appreciate that kind of gesture for support," Moore added. "But it's not something we can actually act on."

"The issue could be a major factor in Bloomberg's contingency plan to shutter the zoo if Albany doesn't pony up more funds for the city. Decreasing the stress of travel and integrating animals into new social groups is an ex-

remely difficult undertaking that takes a great deal of time, Moore said.

"You can't just shut a zoo down and hope to move all the animals overnight," he said. "It can't happen. It takes months and even years."

There is an elderly bald eagle who could cause some concern, Moore said, and in the case of hamadryas baboons, the zoo has a rather original situation in which two different social groups, each with a dominant male, share the same environment. The exhibit has enough space for each group to set up their own

separate living quarters with space to forage.

Moore suggests that if the seven and a half baboons — one of the females is pregnant — were forced to move, ideally each social group should be maintained. But finding a home for three or more primates is a lion's task.

While the zoo is home to nearly 400 animals including everything from Peruvian guinea pigs to Cotton-Topped Tamarins, some animals, such as the hamadryas baboons, sea lions and wallabies, require weeks of training just to get into a crate to be shipped. Once an animal arrives at a new home, it may require more time and training to adjust to the new settings and

harmonize with the other animals without becoming too stressed out.

Symptoms of stress can include self-imposed starvation, hyperactivity, lethargy and generally erratic behavior. Added to that, animals are not shipped during the winter or summer months because of the danger barometric extremes pose on the caged beasts as they wait on the tarmac for a flight.

The mayor's office did not return calls for comment on the complexities of shutting down the zoo, and, as the mayor suggested last week, moving all the animals.

Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio, who is lobbying to keep the zoo open, took a more human-centric point of view.

"While furry and cute, people should know that it's not just about the bears," DeBlasio said. "The Prospect Park Zoo provides valuable and substantial education services to children through the public schools and not-for-profit organizations like the Girl Scouts."

In the latest round of budget cuts, presented on April 15, Bloomberg proposed locking the gates of the Prospect Park and Queens zoos, which would save the city approximately \$8 million, less than 1 percent of the needed \$1 billion.

The 12-acre Prospect Park Zoo attracts nearly 250,000 visitors each year.

"This is not a budgetary exercise — this is the lives of 211 people, the displacement of thousands of animals, and the dismantling of the world's largest and most distinguished network of urban wildlife parks," Dr. Steven Sanderson said last week. Sanderson is president and chief executive officer of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the parent organization to the city's four zoos and sole aquarium.

The WCS has mounted a petition drive and they are asking New Yorkers to visit the city's zoos in a show of support.

Bloomberg's cuts also target the Bronx Zoo, the city's largest, and the Central Park Zoo, as well as the New York Aquarium in Coney Island. Those venues would see cuts of 35 percent or more. More than 200 WCS staffers would be laid off and more than 800 animals relocated.

Admission to the Prospect Park Zoo is \$2.50 for adults and 50 cents for children. It is free for members of the Wildlife Conservation Society. The zoo, near Flatbush Avenue in the park, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

—Patrick Galluue

Feds say Bay Ridge man was an Iraqi spy

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

There may have been a spy among us.

A Bay Ridge resident was arrested last week on charges that he spied for the Iraqi government.

The son of an Iraqi diplomat appointed by Saddam Hussein as a liaison to United Nations weapons inspectors, Reid Al-Anbuke has been living on the 200 block of Senator Street for the past three years along with his sister and two brothers.

But while Ridgites are often noted for their gift of gab and ear-to-the-ground awareness, nobody seemed to know anything about Al-Anbuke or his arrest this week.

Local community activists, shwarma sellers, mosque members, right on up to the local police precinct, all said they were shocked to learn from The Bay Ridge Paper that a spy had been living among them.

"It is shocking and scary to learn that living just a stone's throw away from the community was an agent of the Iraqi Intelligence Service," said state Sen. Marty Golden.

"But the law enforcement personnel has again proven to be on top of their game and has made an arrest. It is proof that you may be able to hide, but eventually you will be caught," Golden added. Deputy Inspector Matthew Pontillo, commanding officer of the 68th Precinct, said he knew little of the arrest but that Al-Anbuke's activities had not affected the public safety of the community.

Calls to several Senator Street residents found they had no idea an alleged spy was living among them.

Al-Anbuke, 28, was charged by federal prosecutors with aiding the Iraqi Intelligence Service, an agency the FBI holds

responsible for the assassination attempt on former President George Bush. He was arraigned on April 15 in Manhattan federal court and pleaded not guilty.

If convicted Al-Anbuke could face up to 10 years in prison.

His lawyer, Thomas Nooter, said he was thunderstruck over the charges against his client and claimed that Al-Anbuke had been providing the FBI with information about intelligence officers operating out of the United Nations mission over the past two years.

Among the charges against Al-Anbuke is that he purchased a tape recorder at the Wiz for an Iraqi spy. According to Nooter, that tape recorder was supposed to be used by an acquaintance to learn English.

"He couldn't buy it himself because he didn't speak English," Nooter said. The tape recorder was later given back to Al-Anbuke, he said, to be returned to the electronics store.

Al-Anbuke moved from Manhattan to a two-bedroom apartment on Senator Street near Ridge Boulevard after his father left the United States two years ago.

His diplomatic visa became invalid when his father returned to Iraq. Al-Anbuke's siblings are now in the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Instead of returning to Iraq with his father, Al-Anbuke stayed on in New York where he was studying graphic design. He worked at World Class Cleaners in the West Village. A coworker who answered the telephone at World Class Cleaners this week said he was very surprised about the arrest.

In Bay Ridge, Zein Rimawi, vice president of the Islamic Society of Bay Ridge, questioned the validity of the charges against Al-Anbuke, who he does not know.



Sketch of Reid Al-Anbuke in federal court on April 15.

"Spying on what?" asked Rimawi. "We don't have Iraqi [spies] here in Bay Ridge. I don't believe this Bush administration. If they say the sun sets in the West I check it 10 times before I believe it." Rimawi added that these days Arabs in America are "guilty until proven innocent."

But FBI agents say they have a videotape of Al-Anbuke in Atlantic City in January 2001 with other known Iraqi spies. They also claim that he let a spy make a telephone call from his cell phone. And he is shown on video at a 2001 party celebrating Saddam Hussein's birthday at the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations, which was attended by other known spies.

Al-Anbuke is also charged with not registering with the U.S. Attorney General's office as all "agents" working for foreign governments are required to do.

He is being held without bail and prosecutors expect an indictment to be handed down in Manhattan within the next three weeks, according to Nooter.

Parade nets mermaid 10G

Associated Press

A woman arrested after she wore only a thong and body paint to the 2001 Coney Island Mermaid Parade will receive \$10,000 after the city settled a federal lawsuit which she alleged she was wrongly detained.

The deal between Amy Gunderson, 31, and the city was announced Tuesday by her lawyer, Ronald L. Kuby.

Deborah Meyer, a city lawyer, said the city admitted no liability or wrongdoing in reaching the deal.

"The city evaluates cases and makes business decisions every day. We felt it was in our best interest to settle the case," she said. In her lawsuit, Gunderson said her First Amendment rights were violated when she was arrested June 29, 2001, at the parade in Coney Island. The charges were eventually dismissed.

Kuby said Gunderson was within her rights to be topless in her portrayal of a sea creature because her float and costume fell within the definition of entertainment.

He also said she was wrongfully arrested because New York's highest court has held that female toplessness cannot, as a matter of equal protection, be deemed criminal when male toplessness is legal.

World of Health Party on Tuesday

Touch of Light Chiropractic

Drs. Lois and George Donnelly, are hosting their second World of Health Party on Tuesday, April 29, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The focus of these parties, where admission is free, is education and information for people who are interested in learning to reduce stress in their lives, eat healthier and improve the overall quality of their lives — all through holistic and natural means.

Tuesday's event will take place at Touch of Light Chiropractic, suite 907, 44 Court St., opposite Borough Hall. Lectures and demonstrations will focus on improving health with Network Spinal Analysis; Holistic Nutrition; Reiki — The Healing Path; the Top Ten All Time Toning Tips, and the Seven-Path Self-Hypnosis Program.

Healthy refreshments are served and a free raffle is held. The event offers a chance to explore ways of improving health and well being. Holistic health practitioners will be available to answer questions.

World of Health parties are free — but reservations are necessary. To reserve a slot, call (718) 643-9980.

D'town biz whiz crosses the river

The Brooklyn Papers

After successfully selling the city on a comprehensive development plan for Downtown Brooklyn, Jim Whelan, president of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, stepped down April 16 to become a leading voice for the Bloomberg administration's vision for the West Side of Manhattan.

Joining a public-private partnership known as the Hudson-Narsh Coalition, Whelan will work to advance Mayor Michael Bloomberg's vision for a new Jets football stadium, an extension of the 7 train and the expansion of the Jacob Javits Convention Center. His departure came just days after the Bloomberg administration announced the details on a plan developed by the council to make Downtown Brooklyn the city's third major business center.

"While there will be many more conversations regarding the refinement, passage and implementation of the plan, I believe the groundwork has been laid for area leaders to work together to ensure the area's growth and prosperity for years to come," Whelan said.

A replacement for Whelan has not yet been named.



Times Plaza progress

The historic subway kiosk (above) at the intersection of Flatbush, Atlantic and Fourth avenues, Downtown, was returned to its home in Times Plaza last week, as work advanced on the Atlantic Terminal office shopping complex above the Long Island Railroad hub across the street.



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Owner Tony Affronti cuts bone-in rib steaks at Los Paisanos Meat Market at 162 Smith St.

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And you'll also find sausage prepared with wine, rosemary and garlic; merguez sausage; and organic meat and poultry.

Los Paisanos has an impressive grocery section that carries many ethnic foods — couscous; imported olive oil, cheeses and pasta sauces; and Spanish chorizo sausage.

"We want to make people happy," says Michael Affronti, who took over the store after his father, Tony Affronti, retired. (Tony still helps out, enjoying the business more than ever.)

Another part of making people happy is taking holiday orders and special orders year round.

"We give our customers the red-carpet treatment," says Tony. "When people come in, they see the difference."

Los Paisanos Meats, at 162 Smith Street between Wyckoff and Bergen streets, accepts American Express, Visa, Discover, MasterCard and food stamps, and is open Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 855-2641.

—Paulanne Simmons

Knife mugger targets Slope women

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

A knife-wielding mugger and his accomplice terrorized Park Slope and Boerum Hill women over the past week, striking at least five times.

Police believe the same brazen robber committed all five attacks, assisted by a getaway driver. Most of the robberies have taken place during the day and all targeted women — in one case, the mugger threatened the life of a woman's young child.

The robbery spree began on April 10, when a 33-year-old woman left a store on Court Street, at around 3 p.m., and then turned towards Clinton Street on Warren Street in Boerum Hill. She was grabbed from behind and a knife was put to her throat. The victim fought back, kicking and elbowing the thief before he threw her to the ground, yanked her purse away and fled into what appeared to be a silver, late-model Lincoln sedan.

The victim lost \$50, a Palm Pilot, credit cards, a cell phone and keys.

Later that same day, a woman, 35, was grabbed on Sterling Place, between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope at around 3:45 p.m. The victim was grabbed from behind and the robber put a knife to her throat.

"Don't scream. Give me your money," he demanded.

The robber took \$70 and fled in what was described as a silver Buick driven by another man.

The robbery spree escalated on April 18 and April 19, when at least three more people were robbed in Park Slope by a man bearing a similar description.

On April 18, at 2 p.m., a woman, 25, was walking from her car on Third Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, when a man approached and said, "Don't move, I'll cut you. I'll kill you." The victim said she had no

money, but the robber persisted in his demands before she opened her bag to show him her wallet was empty. A neighbor came out of her house and began to scream causing the perpetrator to flee into a waiting vehicle. The car backed down Third Street, onto Fifth Avenue and took off going north.

The next day, shortly before 10 a.m., a woman and her 2-year-old son were held up at knife-point by the thug at 13th Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West.

The victim, 36, said a man on the street blocked her path and pulled a single-edged razorblade and threatened, "Give me all your money or I'll cut your kid."

When he leaned towards the child, she handed over her wallet. The robber removed \$35 from the billfold, then threw the rest of the contents into the street before he jumped into a waiting vehicle at Eighth Avenue.

As the car took off, the victim told police, it nearly struck a number of other vehicles on Eighth Avenue.

Around 2:30 p.m., the thief was back at work on President Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, sticking up a 28-year-old woman. This time the robber returned to his earlier tactic of grabbing the victim from behind.

"Don't scream," he said, as he held her under the throat. "Give me the money."

The victim began to scream, and the robber tried to pull her under a nearby staircase. She continued to resist but the thief wrestled away her handbag and fled into a gray, 1970s Cadillac or Buick Riviera, with a white vinyl top. He made off with the woman's \$40, her cell phone, identification and credit cards.

The robber was described as a black male, around 30 years old, 180 pounds, and between 5-foot-11 and 6-foot-2. There was no description of his getaway driver.



The Brooklyn Papers • Tom Cullen

Till it's over, over there

Officers of the 76th Precinct and members of the precinct council gather outside precinct on Union Street April 17 to unveil banner honoring their fellow 76th Precinct officers serving in Iraq: Army reservists Angela Green, Judith Howie and Theodore Sarica, and Coast Guard reservist Sgt. Robert Stapleton. Banner bears their police shields.

Thief hits Slope woman during prayer

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

A theavin' heathen stole a parishioner's purse from off a church pew on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, while the victim was in mid-prayer.

According to police, at around 12:20 p.m., on April 20, the victim, 31, while kneeling in the pews to pray, placed her handbag on the bench behind her. Moments later, the bag was gone, containing \$350, credit cards, a cell phone, keys and miscellaneous gift cards.

Hicks push-in

A woman was attacked coming into her home on Hicks Street at 2 p.m. April 14. Police said the victim, 94, was entering her apartment, between Love Lane and Pierrepont Street, when a man followed her through the front door. The man pushed her into a dark room and pulled a knife, cutting her hand in the process. When she began to scream the robber grabbed her purse and fled.

Three credit cards were reported stolen.

Tied up, robbed

A vicious mob robbed an apartment on Bridge Street, between York and Prospect streets, and tied up the residents before looting the home, police said.

At around 2:15 a.m., on April 18, the gang busted into the home while the victims, a woman, 50, and a 9-year-old boy, slept. The suspects then roused the two residents and tied them up with duct tape. While one of the five intruders searched the apartment, police said, another one shouted at the victims, "Shut up or I'll blow your head off."

Police Blotters

The then burglars fled with \$480.

Police said one of the victims knew one of the robbers, and they rounded up five suspects.

Skylight entry

A woman's apartment on Baltic Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, was broken into while she was at work.

According to police, the burglar crashed through a bathroom skylight on April 17, sometime between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., and stole cash, jewelry, a DVD player, DVDs and a CD player, with a reported combined value of \$1,900. One thing the burglar did leave was a giant mess from breaking in through the skylight.

Church mug

A legally blind woman, 50, was robbed of her purse coming out of a church on Smith Street, between Fulton and Livingston streets.

The victim told police that on April 13, at 6:30 p.m., she was pushed to the ground by the thug, who snatched her purse containing \$50, identification and keys.

Intel outside

A burglar sacked a restaurant on Court Street at the corner of State Street, taking a computer, as well as its monitor and keyboard.

Sometime between 4 p.m. on April 15, and when the breaking was discovered, at 9 a.m. the following day, a prowler scumbled through a kitchen window and managed to elude the alarm to steal the PC. A 45-year-old employee arrived at work to find the computer missing.

Dirty Harry?

A man's .357 Smith and Wesson revolver was stolen from a Vinegar Hill storage facility on April 15.

According to police, the 39-year-old pistol packer, from Staten Island, was licensed to own a firearm, and stored the gun at the facility on

Bridge Street between Front and Water streets at around 1 p.m. Returning to the storage room at 9 p.m., however, he said he discovered the gun was gone along with a DVD player and his stereo. He valued the items at \$2,300.

The victim, 28, was walking past the Wyckoff Street Playground, on Wyckoff Street between Hoyt and Bond streets, when the gang confronted him.

"Give me your wallet," one of the men said. "Give me everything." The victim handed over his wallet and one of the robbers removed \$40 and dropped the rest of the contents on the ground. The gang also took the man's cell phone.

Lot sacked

Two men stole a pair of cars after tying up and beating the parking lot attendant at a garage on the corner of Washington and Prospect streets.

BMX bandits

A 13-year-old boy was robbed of his bicycle by a mob of two-wheeling thieves on Prospect Park West at Ninth Street on April 18.

At about 6 p.m., the boy was surrounded by over a dozen teenagers, one of who pulled a knife and demanded his bicycle. The gang rode off with the bike.

Bottle bashed

A man was attempting to mediate a dispute on Fifth Avenue, between Dean and Bergen streets, shortly before 11 p.m. on April 13, when he was stabbed with a broken bottle in his back and forehead, police said.

The victim was taken to Lutheran Medical Center and

—Patrick Gallahee

Hero cop saves family

The Brooklyn Papers

An officer from the 76th Precinct in Carroll Gardens displayed off-duty heroism when he rushed into a burning building on the border of Flatbush and Midwood and saved a mother and her two children.

Sgt. Robert Sorrenti, a 16-year veteran who has been a patrol sergeant at the 76th Precinct for the past three years, was driving to work from his home in Queens at 6:40 a.m. on April 1, when he saw smoke pouring from a third-floor window at 1480 Flatbush Ave.

"I was just traveling, coming into work," Sorrenti told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "I looked to my left and saw black smoke coming from the top floor of a building."

He stopped his car and called the Fire Department, then rushed into the burning building to see if anyone was trapped inside.

Sorrenti rescued the woman and her two children from their first-floor apartment, and then rushed back in and began

hanging on doors on the second and third floors, where the fire had started.

No one was on those floors and Sorrenti managed to escape the two-alarm blaze. After firefighters arrived to put out the blaze, Sorrenti was taken to Beth Israel Medical Center and treated for smoke inhalation.

A Fire Department spokesman said a cause for the fire had not yet been determined.

—Patrick Gallahee



The Brooklyn Papers • Tom Cullen

Passover at Mount Sinai

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE: SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY: WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC. FICA: NORWEST MORTGAGE, INC. (P) vs. HODGES, CREDIT OF GDO, INC., et al. Cause No. 02CV001191. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated Oct. 2, 2002, with all of public notice or the "Start" of the foreclosure proceedings, the "Start" of the Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on May 29, 2003 at 10:15 a.m. in front of the Supreme Court, New York, Section 8, Block 1335, Lot 61. Appraiser of judgment is \$245,732.72. The property is subject to the terms and conditions of the judgment and terms of sale and the right of the United States of America to redeem within 120 days from the date of sale to a reasonable value. MARTIN EVANS, Referee. EPOCH 20, FRENKEL, Ltd. d/b/a: for PHE, 43 East Main St., Bay Shore, NY 11706. (878) 201-2000.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court of the City of New York, County of Kings on the 4th day of April, 2003, bearing the Index Number N021760003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT: KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Shmura Maza in the future. My present name is Shmura Maza. My present address is 468 Jefferson Ave., #25, Brooklyn, NY 11227. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is 02/25/59. R67

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court of the City of New York, County of Kings on the 2nd day of April, 2003, bearing the Index Number N02180003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT: KINGS COUNTY,

TY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of David Maza. My present name is David Maza. My present address is 280 14th Street, Apt. #60, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Manhattan, NY. My date of birth is 12/18/67. R67

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PARENIT

How to (gently) quiet a chatty kid

Q: "My third-grader is an A student but gets low conduct grades because of too much talking. How can her teachers and I stop this?"

A: Shouting "shut up" and other common mistakes fail to solve the talking problem. Instead of disrupting the class to silence a chatterbox, help the sociable child re-channel her behavior into a benefit.

"Talking in class is more of a social problem, an interaction problem, than a discipline problem," says Robert DeBruyn, author of "You Can Handle Them All" (The Master Teacher, 2000) and "You Can Handle Them All for Parents" (2003). "Interrupting the class to reprimand the child won't solve it."

If you punish or isolate compulsive talkers in class, in the lunchroom or at home, they will be even more needy for attention and relationships — part of what gets them into trouble in the first place, says DeBruyn, owner of The Master Teacher Inc., which produces educational resources.

"Give them a chance to speak out in other ways," he says. "Meet their needs through productive work in the classroom or doing something for the teacher. These are great kids to make classroom announcements, to help other kids, to give reports."

Some students are less tempted to chatter if they get to work in groups, get jobs around the classroom, and have additional challenging assignments.

First, make the child aware of her talkative behavior — she may not even know she's talking, DeBruyn suggests. Coordinate with the teacher how the problem will be handled at school and at home. The goal: Improved self-discipline, not punishment.

What undermines the management of a talker at home or in class: Ignoring the behavior one day then overreacting the next.

One mother gave her son a note card to jot down each

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

time he wanted to speak in class but didn't have a chance to.

That helped him gain control without squashing his interest, and he proudly brought home his tallies to mom. The tallies added up to small treats.

One reader's son responded to keeping score, so his teacher marked on a sticky note on his desk each time he spoke out of turn.

His teacher quietly called attention to how often he interrupted class, and he learned that he had to wait to be called on.

DeBruyn, a former teacher, used hand signals to help his students check their chatty behavior without an interruption of the class or embarrassment of the child.

His other tips include:

- When the student is talking, don't stop class or say a word. Walk toward the child's desk. The closer the teacher moves to a talker, the less she will talk.
- Let the student know you will call on her during class discussion. If you tell her the

question you will ask, she can focus on planning her answer instead of talking.

- Make frequent eye contact
- Seat the talker near quiet and serious students.

Parents can encourage the child to count "1-2-3," to be sure what she has to say "counts" before she opens her mouth, DeBruyn suggests.

At the dinner table, take turns talking. Ask questions and make eye contact. A child learns social skills in a family-centered home where he has to be courteous, listen and take turns talking, not in a child-centered family where the kid is king.

The ability to talk is an asset, DeBruyn says, as long as a child learns appropriate behavior — such as not to interrupt classmates while they are working, to think before speaking and to realize they aren't learning while they are talking.

"Tell the child she has a gift, but she has to use it constructively," he says. "Others will have more respect for you if you use your gift appropriately."

For information on educational resources published by The Master Teacher, including how to deal with misbehavior in class, call (800) 699-9633.

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Photo exhibit casts eye on young Latinos

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Thomas Biesl brings Vienna to Brooklyn

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 2 BROOKLYN HOME: GO 4

The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • April 28, 2003

Ball players

By Kevin Filipowski
for The Brooklyn Papers

The biggest splash a ballet company can make in its debut appearance at the Brooklyn Academy of Music is by giving a fresh spin to one of the most popular and enduring ballets.

That's what choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot and Les Ballets de Monte Carlo will do when they bring their version of Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella" to the Howard Gilman Opera House April 29-May 3.

Maillot took time out from his busy rehearsal schedule to give an exclusive interview to GO Brooklyn, explaining his reinterpretation of Prokofiev's musical fairy tale.

"It's always interesting when you give a new take on a story-ballet that's very familiar, combining that with a new form or new way of telling the story," Maillot said. "The original idea was to keep it as a fairy tale — which we all need in these difficult times — but also give it a new human dimension so audiences can see themselves in it."

That new human dimension stems from a simple idea: Cinderella's real mother (who died before the story begins) returns as our heroine's fairy godmother.

"We start with Cinderella's mother and father together, then we see her mother die, and the mother becomes the fairy godmother who follows her all her life," Maillot explained. "It may be that fairytales have more reality than we usually see, and maybe these kinds of fairy tales happen every day."

Prokofiev's dazzling music gave Maillot the inspiration to seek a new approach. "Prokofiev's score is more complex than the score for his ballet of 'Romeo and Juliet,' and I wanted to see if I could explore the story in a more complex way through this complex music."

Maillot's idea of Cinderella's mother as guardian angel was also inspired by a real-life tragedy.

"My father died seven years ago, and he was the person who made me love what I'm doing today," Maillot said. "His death was a big shock, but curiously, I had a feeling of release and freedom, which sounds terrible. But I realized that he was a 'fairy godmother' for me, and still is."

"I'm always thinking about him, but the difference is that now, I cannot ask him his opinion, so I have to invent the answer for myself."

Another Maillot innovation is to deny what audiences expect from classical ballet, like eye-catching sets and costumes. "I want to take away big costumes and big sets from this kind of ballet, which have less to do with the dancing and the performers," he said. "I want to make a fusion between dance and lighting [by Dominique Deroulle], since the aesthetic aspect is most important."

"I want to make the choreography disappear into the story," said Maillot. "I want audiences to not be impressed by the technique but by the emotions. I'm preoccupied with the idea that the audience must become emotionally involved with the story. I don't like doing ballet for specialists but for the general public."

Monte Carlo Ballet brings an emotional 'Cinderella' to BAM



If the shoe fits: Les Ballets de Monte Carlo will present Prokofiev's "Cinderella" at BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House for four nights. Princess Caroline and Prince Ernst August will attend the April 29 Spring Gala performance.

DANCE

Les Ballets de Monte Carlo performs Prokofiev's "Cinderella" at BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave., at Flatland Place in Fort Greene on April 29 at 7 pm, and May 1-3 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20, \$40 and \$60.

The April 29 performance is also the BAM Spring Gala, to be attended by Princess Caroline and Prince Ernst August of Hanover and HSH Hereditary Prince Albert; call (718) 636-4182 for gala information.

There will be a BAM Dialogue with choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot on May 1 at 6 pm. For more information, visit www.bam.org on the Web.

Photo: David LaChapelle

Maillot believes passionately in art's pre-eminent cultural role. "It's our obligation to disturb people — not to shock, but to make audiences think in new ways, so they can perceive new things," he said. "Usually, the performance continually stops as the audience applauds the dancers, which to me is wrong. I want to force everyone to think more. I want to give everyone pleasure without trying to seduce them."

"Pleasure is not an enemy of creation, but boredom is. I'm trying to restore that balance — giving what people expect, but

also more than what they expect. They expect Prokofiev and 'Cinderella,' but I want to give them something more. Sometimes a little evolution is better than a big revolution."

That "evolution" includes a technical innovation: instead of a glass slipper, Maillot spotlights his dancer's foot. "What's most difficult is to give a dancer a glass slipper to put on and try to dance," he points out. "The true 'glass slipper' for a dancer is her bare foot; that's the most important part for a dancer. We use lighting and slight-of-hand for her glass slip-

per. Her whole foot shines when we put [glitter] on it, then a spotlight."

Maillot and his troupe's BAM performances are part of a weeklong celebration, "Monte Carlo Takes New York," featuring visits by Princess Caroline. The French-born choreographer is overwhelmed by their inclusion.

"We feel honored to have been asked to perform here," he says. "It shows that, although there is glamour, there are also simple, passionate people who enjoy their work immensely. We hope that passion is apparent to the audience."

DANCE

Grave dancers



Danzas Espanolas will welcome spring with a festive presentation of authentic Spanish dances performed at Green-Wood Cemetery's renovated neo-Gothic chapel (500 25th St. at Fifth Avenue), on April 27 at 5 pm.

The dance company will perform Andalusian songs, rich Sephardic and Moorish works and early 19th-century theater dances.

Tickets are \$20. A portion of the proceeds will support Green-Wood's Saved in Time program, which conserves and restores endangered monuments in the cemetery. For tickets, call (718) 857-4816 or visit www.gowanus.com. For directions, call (718) 788-7850 or visit www.green-wood.com.

CINEMA

World vision

Brooklyn International Film Fest returns with a selection of films from around the globe

By Michael Wells
for The Brooklyn Papers

"Brooklyn is not Sundance," says Marco Ursino, as if to reassure himself.

Despite the impressive growth of the Brooklyn International Film Festival, executive director Ursino doesn't see it becoming a market juggernaut or dominating its setting like the Sundance Film Festival, which takes over tiny Park City, Utah, each year.

"We're talking about Brooklyn here! Everything has already been done. It's a land of artists and big people," Ursino tells GO Brooklyn.

Still, the festival, running April 28 through May 4 at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, has gotten pretty big. It began in 1998 as the Williamsburg Brooklyn Film Festival, a designation and location it outgrew last year.

This year's edition, which opens April 28 with a screening of the Merchant and Ivory Film "Meru, Dr. Rey" — a zany murder-mystery exploring the life of the closeted, gay son of a narcissistic diva, starring Dianne Wiest and Vanessa Redgrave — boasts 96 films in five categories:

features, documentaries, narrative shorts, and animated and experimental shorts. The schedule is so packed that the Rose Cinemas at the Brooklyn Academy of Music have been enlisted to catch some of the overflow.

The 96 were culled from 1,578 submissions — a leap up from fewer than 1,000 last year.

"That is worrisome, a little bit," says Ursino, still sounding quite happy. "With more films, it means more people working, therefore a bigger investment, bigger commitment with sponsors, more marketing. Every year it's a little miracle."

"I guess we're doing something right, because [sponsors] who were with us the first year are still with us. We're here to stay for the long term. Just to ensure that, we always do a nice, thorough job as far as our relationships with other organizations, other entities and with people in general."

A prime example is Ursino's stint on April 3 with the "Principal for a Day" program. As part of his brief tenure, he treated students at Middle School 143 in Bushwick to a couple of Brooklyn International Film Festival (BIFF) selections. The Canadian animated short "In the Back of the Bus" (2002) brought down the house with its colorful gallery of bizarre bus passengers grooving to a cappella and beat-box vocal music.

"These kids had the time of their lives," exults Ursino. "They were dancing like crazy." The school's award-winning student chorus will perform before the 3 pm program on May 2, which includes "Back of the Bus," and MS 143 students will have a free day at the festival.

"It's gonna be a show where it's very vocal," observes Ursino, clearly relishing the thought.

This isn't the only way in which BIFF serves the local community. Ursino points with particular pride to the list of 74 countries that submitted films.

There are over 190 ethnic groups living in Brooklyn. He basically brings the best of their countries here. Brooklyn becomes a theater where everybody can be really proud of their own origins, ethnicity and arts."

That goes equally for folks who consider themselves Brooklynites first and foremost. A handful of selections are either about the borough, made here or made by filmmakers based here. But Ursino says he and his colleagues didn't go too far out of their way to favor hometown product.

"Obviously, there is, on our side, a will to do that ...

See BIFF on page GO 4

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Faces in the crowd

Library photo exhibit gives voice to Williamsburg's youth

By Jaime Joyce
for The Brooklyn Papers

Babies crying, machines beeping, voices echoing off the walls—welcome to the Brooklyn Public Library, where no one is quiet except for a small group gathered between the checkout counter, the information desk and the periodicals room.

"Betty," her face framed by dark hair, solemnly beckons. "I am a proud, strong, 22-year-old Puerto Rican, born and raised in Brooklyn," Betty declares in a statement posted by her portrait. "My people have instilled in me the beauty of our heritage and identity. I believe our lives are in the hands of God. Growing up in the neighborhood, I have seen things that I have never had to go through myself. I am a very spiritual person and I hear a calling to serve my people."

"Betty" (Lindsay Park, 2000), is one of 51 intimate black-and-white photographs in the series "Beyond Grand Street: A Journey Through Young Lives in Latino Williamsburg," by French-born artist Regina Monfort. The show is on view at the library's Central branch through April 27.

Presented in five sets of freestanding panels, Monfort's photographs tell the story of a neighborhood and its children. Unlike "Betty," most are unaccompanied by text. In "Young Family on Rooftop" (2000) a trio holds hands. Their physical bodies unseen, they cast a unified shadow on a graffiti-covered wall.

Two young people—Monica and Ricky—figure prominently in the exhibit. "Monica, Jennifer, Biggie and Nadia" (Broadway, 1999) shows the girls gathered on the street corner. The quartet wear identical earrings, gold doorknobs and hairstyles—tight, twisted rows pulled together on top of the head in a loose pile of ribbon-like curls. In front of Monica is a baby carriage.

Monica stands alone in the next photograph ("Monica," Lindsay Park, 1998). Her image is reflected in the mirror, hair unfurled.

"I am going to make it," the text reads. "I want to finish college and go on studying. I want to move to Florida and then to California. It's going to be me and my son."

On the next panel a car bears a message on black-tinted windows: "R.I.P. Monica We Love You." The 19-year-old Ricky died of a gunshot wound on New Year's Day 2000.

In "Ricky and Carmen on New Year's Day" (1995) Ricky looms large, his hand to his head as if in pain. His mother looks at him from the couch. "Ricky" (Supreme Court, 2001) shows the young man alone, slouched on a bench beside a closed courtyard door.

Ricky is both the first person photographed and someone who has remained at the heart of my work," Monfort explains in the exhibit's opening statement. "He and his family are to be credited for my initial acceptance as a photographer in their neighborhood."

Asked why she focused so much on Ricky and Monica, Monfort says, "I



The kids stay in the picture: Photographer Regina Monfort (bottom right) attended her March 5 opening at the Brooklyn Public Library with some of her subjects, including (clockwise from top left) Anthony Lopez, Jennifer Mercado, Jesus Cintron, Edwin Toledo and his mother, Jacqueline Toledo. The exhibit will be on view through April 27.

believe in their uniqueness." It was their resilience that drew her to them as subjects. Today, Monfort visits Ricky regularly "with or without [her] camera." He is working in construction and is still in love with Adriana, who also appears in the exhibit.

"I have realized my life's work seems to be totally directed towards teenage culture," Monfort says. On the library's Web site she admits that, as a child, her image of Latino culture was based on a single source—the movie "West Side Story."

Monfort's photo-documentary, which she began in 1994, is multilayered. "I have lived in Williamsburg—six blocks away from Grand Street—for over 10 years," says Monfort. "I do not pretend to represent the whole Latino community. I am speaking about kids I have met."

Many of them came to the show's opening. "The reality in my photographs is more often sad than happy," Monfort says when asked how the teens responded. "Over the years, it has been my experience that the images led the people in my photographs to reflect upon their own selves, which can be difficult."

When she began the project, Monfort worked in the studio of photogra-

pher Irving Penn. She currently works freelance for Richard Avedon. Her work has been shown at the Museum of the City of New York ("New York Now," 2000), Yale University Art Gallery ("The Persistence of Photography in American Portraiture," 2000) and the Brooklyn Museum of Art ("New Acquisitions," 2001). "Beyond Grand Street" is Monfort's first solo show in the United States.

A black composition book with its pages ripped from the spine is attached to the exhibit's opening panel with ragged white. Though barely visible, visitors find it and share their impressions inside.

Nine-year-old Akilah, from the Bronx, writes: "One photograph I really liked was 'Shouty on the Fence.' In it, a small girl in a skirt clings to a chain-link fence. 'I liked that one because I'm short, too, but that photo shows a girl who isn't afraid of her personality.'"

"I believe you depicted Hispanics in only a negative way," writes Iris Franco. "I would like to depict your race negatively."

But an anonymous viewer had this to say: "One word—POWERFUL—Thank you. Voices were heard."

No one at the library complained about the noise.

WHERE To compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS, APRIL 24

FILM: St. Francis College presents "Catch Me if You Can." 6 pm, 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-5272. Free.

PUBLIC MEETING: of Community Board 5, 6 pm, Carroll Gardens Library, 396 Clinton St. (718) 643-3227.

HOME DESIGN: Serinotique and Croswell host a reception and preview of their summer 2003 home furnishings collections. Refreshments served, 6 to 9 pm, 64 Jay St. (718) 522-7667. Free.

FILM FEST: 37th International Film and Video Festival hosted by Brooklyn Arts Council. Today: Selected Shorts, 6 to 8:30 pm, Spike Lee Screening Room, Long Island University, Flatbush and DeKalb avenues. (718) 625-0080. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Open mic poetry night, 6:30 pm, NYC, hosted by Ken Siegelman, Brooklyn Post Laureate, 247 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-9066. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Calvin Baker, author of "Once Two Heroes," reads from his book, 7 pm, 106 Court St. (718) 246-4976. Free.

MILITARY CINEMA: Fort Hamilton hosts a "Military History Cinema Night." Discussion follows, 7 pm, Cal. (718) 630-4307. Free.

LOW BAR: Playwrights Reading Series, 7 pm, Medline Cafe, 100 Julia Jarcho and Winter Miller read. Also, Genevieve Neal singing at 10 pm, 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100. Free.

FILM FEST: Brooklyn International Film Festival presents a feature film, "Memories of Duke." 7 pm, Call for ticket info, Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Jonathan St. (718) 802-3852.

PLANT CARE: Root Stock hosts a talk on how to create a window box, 7 to 8:15 pm, 297 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-1888. Free.

BOOY YALP: Park Slope Food Co-op offers talk on how the body can heal from a variety of mental and emotional imbalances, 7:30 pm, 782 Union St. (718) 622-0560. Free.

WRITERS ON THE ROOFTOP: Brooklyn Writers Series hosts a reading, 7:30 pm, YMCA, 357 Ninth St. (718) 766-7100. Free.

POETS AGAINST THE WAR: present Voices for Peace. Readings by established and emerging poets and writers, 7:30 pm, Park Slope United Methodist Church, Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street, (718) 788-7168. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program by Brahms and Helms, 8:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2083.

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents the premieres of Mozart's "Così fan tutte," directed by Jonathan Miller. Performed in Italian with English surtitles, 8:00, 535, 7:30 pm, Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. Also, BAM Dialogue with Jonathan Miller, 8:4 pm, Rose Cinema, 30 Lafayette St. (718) 681-1111.

BRIC STUDIO: presents American Theater Nexus, experimental theater directed by emerging directors, 8:10, 58 students, 8:30 pm, 447 Fulton St. (718) 855-7882.

JAZZ: William Spaulding Quartet performs, 7:30, 9 and 10:30 pm, Club 243, 243 Flatbush Ave. Call for ticket info, 917-666-7834.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Brazilian night. No cover, 8 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK: Music with Deerfoot, 9 pm, 409 Kent Ave. (718) 388-3929.

UP OVER JAZZ: New School University's Sun Ra Orchestra. Class, 9:30 pm, 351 Flatbush Ave. Call, (718) 398-5413.

VERTICAL PLAYERS: "Mono a Mono II," 8 pm, See Sat.

SWIM PLACEMENT: WYCA offers swim lesson placement assessments for the upcoming spring term. Assessments are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 to 6 pm, 30 Third Ave. (718) 875-1190. Free.

Fri, April 25

MATERNITY 101: 90-minute class for expectant mothers on infant care and breast feeding, conducted in Cantonese and Mandarin, 10 am to 1 pm, Mainland Chinese Center, 4862 Tenth Ave. (718) 283-7429. Free.

ZEN LECTURE: Sri Nishitani Nature Center offers "The Zen of Seeing and Drawing," 1 pm, 3302 Ave. U. (718) 427-2021. Free.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: UNK hosts an Author Day celebration, 4:30 admission, free for members, 1:30 and 3 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

ORIGAMI CLASS: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, offers an origami class for kids ages 8 to 12, 4 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 239-2700. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: Films de Femmes, Female French Directors, "Today," "Diary of a Seducer" (1995), \$10, Q & A with film critic Amy Rubin after 4:50 pm screening, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 595-2150.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents music with Metro Cappelli, 57, 7 pm, Also, Golden, 56, 10 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program by Brahms and Weber, 8:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2083.

651 ARTS: Concert Higher Ground celebrates spiritually-themed music of Steve Wonder, 8:30 pm, 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 636-4181.

BARNES & NOBLE: presents music with Jennifer Jackson, 8:45 pm, 376 North St. (718) 965-9177.

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: presents The Kate and Lou Band, featuring accordion, guitar, mandolin and vocals, \$10, 9 pm, 53 Prospect Park West, (718) 768-2972.

UP OVER JAZZ: CAFE Valley Pononamny Quartet performs, 8:30 pm, 351 Flatbush Ave. Call for ticket info, 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 636-4181.

TWO BOOTHS: Joe Radio Trio performs Tex-Mex blues. No cover, 10 pm to midnight, 514 10th St. (718) 499-3253.

LOW BAR: Howard Fahnman Quartet plays, No cover, 10 pm, 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.

IMPROV JAM: with Don Slovin as host, 55, 10 pm, Brooklyn, 222 Fourth Ave. (718) 257-4616.

VERTICAL PLAYERS: "Mono a Mono II," 8 pm, See Sat.

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Admission: by donation
No advance reservations; seating is first-come, first-served
Sponsored in part by the Slavophile Society of Maine

Star power

Chef Thomas Ferlesch wins over hearts and palates with his new Fort Greene bistro

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

In 1981, New York Times dining critic Mimi Sheraton bestowed four stars on a 23-year-old chef. The restaurant was Vienna "79, and the honor made Thomas Ferlesch the youngest chef to be awarded quadruple stars in the history of the Times.

After an 11-year, much-heralded stint as executive chef at Cafe des Artistes, Viennese expat Ferlesch swapped the Upper West Side of Manhattan for Brooklyn, decamping to Fort Greene.

"I was walking my children to school one morning, and I noticed this empty space [formerly the New City Bar & Grill] across from the Brooklyn Academy of Music," Ferlesch said. "It had a nice area in the back for a garden. I called the landlord that day."

Fort Greene, not known for its Viennese community, has welcomed Ferlesch's lovingly restored Thomas Beisl ("beisl" means bistro), based on the egalitarian gathering spots he remembered from abroad.

"In Vienna, bistros serve the young and the old, plumbers, doctors, artists, everyone," he said. With his proximity to BAM, Long Island City and Pratt, and a real estate market that leaves newsmen reeling from sticker-shock, Ferlesch's dream is being realized.

Replicating the bistros of his memory meant a major renovation. What has evolved is a casual room with a comfortable bar on one side — perfect for a quick, pre-theater drink — on the other, the dark, moody dining room with gold walls, mahogany wainscoting, dark wood tables and vintage posters.

Ferlesch's one-man crusade to change the perception of Austrian cooking is working.

"When people think of Austrian food they think 'sausages. It's really much more refined than that,'" he said. Purists will be pleased that wiener schnitzel, beef goulash and

DINING

Thomas Beisl (25 Lafayette Ave. between Furford Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene) accepts American Express. Entrees: \$13-\$16. The restaurant is open daily from noon to midnight, and serves brunch Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 am to 4 pm. For reservations, call (718) 222-5800.

Linzner torte with whipped cream, or schlag, are on the menu. Those looking for a broader dining experience will appreciate Gallic onion soup, paninis, and a delicate cod fillet with wild mushrooms and sauteed spinach.

Asked why he adds jalapeno pepper to his creamy spaghetti squash, Ferlesch commented, "Jalapeno is so much rounder and deeper than black pepper." He could not care less that the pepper isn't an ingredient one associates with Austrian cuisine.

"I've been a cook for 20 years, and I've never stopped learning," he said. "If I find an ingredient that tastes better than what I've used before, then I add it."

Such is the case with the delicate house cocktail improbably named "The Schiele." Artist Egon Schiele's work, with titles such as "Agency" and "Death and the Girl," would inspire something with a more profound after-effect, not this feminine elixir.

Brought to the table by the GQ-worthy staff, the dry champagne cocktail — tinged with a pale cadaver-colored gel — sparkles. Flavored with the essence of elderberry flowers and woodruff, the gel imparts a light, herbal note and the aroma of a spring breeze blowing across wildflowers.

The Schiele set the tone for a meal that was splendid dish after dish: an authentic and satisfying onion soup gratinee; a special sauerbraten, the beef marinated for "at least a week" in red wine and vinegar; and a glorious calf's liver with grapes that is a tour de force of technique and flavor.

Desserts were everything you'd expect in a Viennese restaurant. If Ferlesch offered this meal in Manhattan, you'd blow your mortgage and thank him for the opportunity. In Brooklyn, the entrees top out at \$16.

Maybe you're harboring resentment toward the French. Ferlesch's onion soup will allow you to forgive and forget. The deeply flavored broth, so sweetly tinged with soft strands of onions, and the pleasure of pushing your spoon through the sharp, chewy, Gruyere cheese crust will banish all bad feelings.

A richly flavored eggplant and red pepper terrine was garnished with a tart crown of goat cheese, and mushrooms



Photo by Tina Barry



Photo by Tina Barry

Beef up: Among the hearty dishes at Thomas Beisl is a pot-au-feu (beef short ribs and marrow bone in a consommé). (At left) On the lighter side, the busy bar offers a signature cocktail called "The Schiele."

rooms in a crispy crust with homemade tartar sauce looked like ordinary bar food but were divine — the crust covering each mushroom as brittle as glass and the sauce pleasantly lemony.

Ferlesch enjoys pairing multiple sides with his main courses. While his mixes make for a busy plate, each component complements the entire. Calf's liver is a dish that diners either love or avoid. If you're of the latter category, give Ferlesch's version a try. The liver, a poor man's foie gras of sorts, is seared along its edges. The contrast of crispness and the liver's fluffy, mouse-like consistency will make your taste buds deliciously happy. A seedless grape sauce, ever so slightly sweet, tempered the beefy, nuttiness of the liver, and a small mound of eggplant, red peppers and onions looked wrong on the plate — too much color and the undesired promise of sweet and sour — yet was a refreshing break from all the meaty flavors.

Sauerbraten is a dish associated with German beer halls and haushaus. In Ferlesch's hands, it's a mildy sweet and sour, fork-tender delicacy. A *serviette knodel*, or napkin pudding, is prepared like a bread pudding, rolled in a napkin (plastic wrap is the modern alternative) and poached. Ferlesch prepares his in a

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SAT, APRIL 26

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: Brooklyn Botanic Garden hosts its annual Sakura Matsuri Festival with music and dance performances, flower-viewing guides, tea ceremonies, haiku readings, workshops and more. \$5. \$3.50 for seniors and students, free for children under 10. 10 am to 5 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200. Also, Sunday.

GREENING DAY: The Boerum Hill Association will assist residents in cleaning and mulching tree pits, sprucing up their front gardens and filling window boxes. Free mulch and compost. Coffee and bagels provided. Opening ceremony at Beth Lehem Lutheran Church, Third Avenue at Pacific Street. Call Pat Jobling at (718) 558-3795 or visit www.boerumhill.org. 9 am to 1 pm. Free.

BIRD WALK: Celebrate the birthday of John J. Audubon. Frederick Law Olmsted and the Prospect Park Audubon Center with a special bird walk. 8 to 10 am. Audubon Center. (718) 287-5400. Free.

CHARITY RUN: Teen Challenge of Brooklyn hosts its annual "Race for Freedom." Proceeds benefit drug prevention and rehab programs. \$15. 9 am. Prospect Park. Register at 4th Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 789-1414.

GOVANA'S CLEANUP: Earth Day cleanup along Gowanus Canal, at the intersection of Gowanus and 11th Street. 9 am to 11:30 am. Call for info. (718) 858-0557. Also, the Urban Divers Gowanus Monitors and the Gowanus Cleanup Canal Club. Sign up. 11 am. Meet at Second and Bond streets. (718) 858-0574.

CLEAN STREETS: Park Slope Civic Council hosts its second "Clean Streets Project," a community effort to cleanup littered side streets, overhanging trees and graffiti. 10 am to 2 pm. Meet at the intersection of 7th Street and 7th Avenue. (718) 858-0574.

AMAZING BUSHWICK: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene hosts a walk around Bushwick. Learn about

its row houses, churches, mansions, breweries and civic buildings. 10 am. Meet at street level on Myrtle Avenue at Broadway. JMT train to Myrtle Avenue. (718) 252-9330. Free.

BROOKLYN'S GREENMARKETS: Brooklyn Public Library, 14th Street and Prospect Park West. Learn about the 200 farmers and food producers who offer 400 varieties of produce and products. \$7. \$5 members. 11 am. Call for reservations and meeting location. (718) 220-2780.

SMITH STREET TOUR: Brooklyn Center for Urban Environment takes a tour of Smith Street in Boerum Hill. Learn about its restaurants, stores and homes. \$11. \$9 members, \$8 seniors. 2 to 4 pm. Meet at Carroll Station of the F train, President Street exit. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

BOAT TOUR: at the Audubon Center. Call Noon to 5 pm. Prospect Park. (718) 287-3400.

PERFORMANCES: MUSIC OFF THE SHELVES: Brooklyn Philharmonic music presents the premiere of "Shakespeare in Music." Performance features

music inspired by the atmosphere and characters of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Flatbush Branch, Linden Boulevard near Flatbush Avenue. Also, performance at 4 pm at Grand Army Plaza. Central branch. (718) 622-3838. Free.

MUSIC: Healing Rain Group jazz. 2 pm. First Presbyterian Church, 124 Henry St. (718) 858-2429.

CHORAL MUSIC: Bachmanoff Festival Choir performs. 5:30 pm. Lafayette Square, 530 West 12th Street. \$15. \$10 seniors. \$5 students. \$2 children. 2 to 4 pm. Meet at Carroll Station of the F train, President Street exit. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

ONE BLOCK INTERSECTION: Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

BARBERS BAR: music with Fourth Street Nitewalk. \$4. 9 pm. 376

Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

COMEDY: Brooklyn Brew-Ha-Ha. \$5. 9 pm. The Boulder Bar, 273 Smith St. (718) 624-8878.

UP OVER JAZZ: presents Valley Pomeroy Quartet. 9 and 11 pm and 12:30 am. 351 Flatbush Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 390-5413.

WATERFRONT ALE HOUSE: presents jazz with Nathan Lucas Trio. 11 pm to 2 am. No cover. 155 Atlantic Ave. (718) 522-3794.

TEEN THEATER: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents "My Life is a Telenovela," a teen soap opera with live hip-hop sound. \$5. 10 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0018.

TWO BOOTS: Gene Ambert plays blues. No cover. 10 pm. Children's Corner, near Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard. (718) 282-7789.

TEEN CHALLENGE: 5K run. 10

Continued on next page...

MOTHER'S DAY MENU
Sunday, May 11th

APPETIZER
Mozzarella Fresca • Insalata Tre Colori • Insalata Di Mare (Add'l \$4.95)
Antipasto Caldo • Crema D'Asparagi

PASTA
Penne Al Filetto Di Pomodoro
(Penne with Prosciutto, Onions, Basil & Fresh Tomato Sauce)
Ravioli Di Formaggio
(Cheese Ravioli with Fresh Tomato Sauce & Basil)
Risotto Pescatore
(Variety of Seasonal Seafood & Shellfish with Fresh Tomato Sauce)

ENTRÉE
Salmon Tornado
(Rolled Salmon Over Spinach Topped with Lobster Sauce)
Pollo Valdostano
(Chicken Breast Stuffed with Prosciutto, Fontina Cheese, Topped with Mushrooms & Brown Sauce)
Vitello Piccata
(Veal Scaloppine with Lemon, White Wine & Artichokes)
Mignonette Di Manzo Al Barolo
(Braised Filet Mignon topped with Mushrooms & Barolo)
Carre D'Agello Au Mare (Add'l \$5.95)
(Rack of Lamb Breaded & Seasoned with Herbs, Natural Jus)
(All entrees are served with vegetables & potatoes)
Coffee & Assorted Desserts • Cappuccino (additional \$3.50)

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Sunday, May 11th, at
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Special Three-Course Dinner Menu
With Your Choice of
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Gage & Tollner's classical dishes as well as
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WHERE TO GO...

Continued from previous page...

am. Bartel Pischard, 10 am to 3 pm, 718-789-1414.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: Workshop for kids. Any facts? Color like Beautiful? \$5, free for members and children 12 and under. \$5 seniors and students, 11 am and 2 pm. Also, concert "Hanging Voices" at 4 pm, 200 Eastern Parkway, 718-638-5200.

WATERLOO BRIDGE THEATER: Presents improvised show "The Redhead's." \$2 for kids and \$7 for adults, 11 am, 190 Unionville Ave. (212) 502-0796.

LINSEY-WOODLEY WEEKEND: Lett's Homestead invites kids to plant and process flowers. Noon to 4 pm, Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard, 718-789-2822.

FLEECE FEST: Prospect Park Zoo farm day. Music, games and a chance to watch the zoo's sheep get their annual haircut. 10 am, 450 Flatbush Ave. (718) 789-7339.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella," \$5, \$15 kids, 12:30 and 2:30 pm, 333 5th Ave. (718) 965-3391.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Kids invited to "Exploring Expressions of Social Responsibility," a talk by social-conscious hip-hop performer Talla Kwesi. \$4 admission, free for members, 1 to 2 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 758-4600.

WINNIE THE POOH: returns for a story-time spectacle. 10 am, Barnes and Noble, Call for times, 266 Court St. (718) 246-4976. Free.

OTHER

Flea Market: Sunset Park Community Church, 10 am to 3 pm, 3324 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-4944.

PLANT SALE: The Hortus Garden, 10 am to 3 pm, 110 West 17th St. (212) 850-0099.

RECYCLING EVENT: Bring your old computers and cell phones for recycling collection, 10 am to 4 pm. Drop-off locations: Grand Army Plaza Farmers Market, corner of Third Street and Seventh Avenue, 12th Street and Prospect Park West and Sixth Avenue and 15th Street. (718) 707-1777.

QUILT SHOW: Quilters' Guild of Brooklyn hosts a show featuring 200 quilts, \$5, \$3 seniors, 10 am to 7 pm, Balaugh Ford Center Catholic High School, 300 16th St. (718) 435-6022.

AUCTION: At Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1 to 3 pm, 414 80th St. (718) 745-0200.

FAMILY GROUP: Dyer Heights At-Home meets, 1:30 pm, Redemptorist Church, 100 Lutheran Church, 939 83rd St.

LIBRARY EVENT: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, hosts "Honey Shapero and Poets of World War II," 2 pm, Grand Army Plaza, 718-686-7406.

POET'S HOUR: Brooklyn Public Library, East River Branch, presents a poetry reading by Dmitry Shostakov, 2:30 pm, Brooklyn Public Library, 100 East 17th St. (718) 868-5111.

SHAWNEE MUSIC: Brooklyn Philharmonic presents excerpts

from Beethoven's symphonies, 4 pm, Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, Grand Army Plaza, 718-686-7406.

DINNER AUCTION: St. Thomas Aquinas hosts a dinner and auction, \$25, 6 to 11 pm, 249 Ninth St. (718) 947-9471.

SINGLES EVENT: Concert by the Cathedral Church of the Intercession, 7 pm, Social reception and refreshments follow, First Evangelical Free Church, 6501 Fifth Ave. (718) 836-0029. Free.

ART SHOW: Congregation Beth Elshin hosts its fourth annual members and show, Wine and cheese reception, 7 to 10 pm, 274 Garfield Place, (718) 768-3814. Free.

RECYCLE PCS: Drop off old working and non-working computer monitors, printers, faxes and telephones, 15 Green Community Garden, Sixth Avenue and 15th Street, 9 am. Second drop-off point at 120th Street Park, intersection of Prospect Park West and 120th Street, (718) 707-1777. Free.

HOME REPAIR TALK: Neighbors Helping Neighbors talk on the nuts and bolts, and financing of home improvements. Call for time, 443 39th St. (718) 686-7406.

Sun, April 27

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: Prospect Park, 10 am to 6 pm. See Sat.

LAST EXIT: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour of Bed-Stuy, 6 to 8 pm, 250 Grand St. (718) 686-7406.

GRAVE DANCERS: Green-Wood Cemetery hosts "Dance Spectacular," 7 to 10 pm, 250 Grand St. (718) 686-7406.

BARBERS BAR: presents a Slavic Soul Party featuring Ballo, 8 to 11 pm, 376 North St. (718) 965-9177.

LUX DRUGS: The Lux Drugs and Wildcat, Call for time, 250 Grand St. (718) 686-7406.

VERTICAL PLAYERS: "Meno a Mono II," 2 pm. See Sat.

PAPER MAZES: "Love Letters," 3:30 pm. See Sat.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Kids are invited to a talk on honey bees, \$4 admission, free for members, 2 to 4:30 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 758-4600.

AMERICAN MEXICAN CULTURE: Institute of New York hosts "Día de los Niños" (Children's Day), 1 to 4 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 758-4600.

NUTRITION FEEDING: Lecture by Dr. Susan M. Smith, 6 to 7 pm, 250 Grand St. (718) 686-7406.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella," 12:30 and 2 pm. See Sat.

OTHER

THE HOGGIES: Opening of "A Tribute to G.I.," an exhibit to celebrate the life of Brooklyn Dodgers great and '69 Amateur Pitcher G.I. Hoggie, 1:30 pm, Baseball Field at Citi Field, 100 1st Ave. (718) 633-5373. Free.

JUDAS AMERICAN STYLE: Congregation Beth Elshin presents reporter and author Art G. Goss, discussing the book "The Search for G.I. at Home," 7 to 9 pm, 274 Garfield Place, (718) 768-3814.

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH FAIR: Practitioners of more than 17 different health and wellness techniques speak about their areas of expertise, 9:30 am to 6 pm, Discussion panels at 11 am, 2 pm, and 4 pm, 274 Garfield Place, (718) 768-3814.

FILM: Sunday afternoon series continues with a public showing

of discussion of the PBS documentary "Opioid Trains," 11 am to 1:30 pm, 157 Montague St. (718) 975-4960. Free.

HOLCAUST LECTURE: St. Francis College hosts a lecture by Dr. Janina Hirsch, 7 to 8 pm, 100 Montague St. (718) 975-4960.

MOVIES AT THE MUSEUM: Brooklyn Museum presents "Art, Memory, Survival," a program of films about artists and their work, 7 to 9 pm, 200 Eastern University, Flatbush Avenue, Extension and Dekalb Avenue, (718) 638-5000. 1

YOM HASHOAH: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, hosts a program in anticipation of Holocaust Remembrance Day, 7 to 9 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 758-4600.

MUSIC: Back at Zion performs a program "Music in Historical Settings," 3 pm. Wine reception, 3 to 5 pm, 376 North St. (718) 965-9177.

BARBERS BAR: presents a Slavic Soul Party featuring Ballo, 8 to 11 pm, 376 North St. (718) 965-9177.

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LUX DRUGS: The Lux Drugs and Wildcat, Call for time, 250 Grand St. (718) 686-7406.

VERTICAL PLAYERS: "Meno a Mono II," 2 pm. See Sat.

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CHILDREN

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AMERICAN MEXICAN CULTURE: Institute of New York hosts "Día de los Niños" (Children's Day), 1 to 4 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 758-4600.

NUTRITION FEEDING: Lecture by Dr. Susan M. Smith, 6 to 7 pm, 250 Grand St. (718) 686-7406.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella," 12:30 and 2 pm. See Sat.

OTHER

THE HOGGIES: Opening of "A Tribute to G.I.," an exhibit to celebrate the life of Brooklyn Dodgers great and '69 Amateur Pitcher G.I. Hoggie, 1:30 pm, Baseball Field at Citi Field, 100 1st Ave. (718) 633-5373. Free.

JUDAS AMERICAN STYLE: Congregation Beth Elshin presents reporter and author Art G. Goss, discussing the book "The Search for G.I. at Home," 7 to 9 pm, 274 Garfield Place, (718) 768-3814.

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MOVIES AT THE MUSEUM: Brooklyn Museum presents "Art, Memory, Survival," a program of films about artists and their work, 7 to 9 pm, 200 Eastern University, Flatbush Avenue, Extension and Dekalb Avenue, (718) 638-5000. 1

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